

PONTYPOOL RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S REPORT**1950.**

To: The Chairman and Members of the
Pontypool Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg herewith to present the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1950.

Under the de-centralisation of Health Services agreed upon by the County Council and the District Councils and the Ministry, a full time Medical Officer of Health was appointed to Pontypool Rural District from the 1st January 1949. The duties of the Medical Officer of Health include, by agreement, supervision of the Public Health Departments of the other three Local Authorities (i.e. Abergavenny R.D.C. Usk U.D.C. and Abergavenny Borough) together, forming No.10 Health Area within the Administrative County of Monmouth.

The work of the Medical Officer is very varied, and as the County Council have to retain seven eleventh's of the Medical Officer's time for Child Welfare Clinics and School Medical Inspections, four eleventh's of the time is allocated to sanitary work spread over the four Councils.

It is realised that the allocation of the time for various functions of the Medical Officer is not completely satisfactory, as more time should be given to Public Health work, but it must be remembered that the Health Service is the most progressive Service ever enforced in any country, and, therefore, liable to re-adjustment in the future.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS IN THE RURAL DISTRICT.

The district comprises of seven parishes with a total area of 34,147 acres and is predominately agricultural with slight urbanisation at Croesyceiliog in the parish of Llanfrechfa Lower.

There is a large Royal Ordnance Factory at Glascoed which employs several thousand operatives, the majority of whom are drawn from the surrounding urban areas.

The Registrar-General's estimate of the population at the end of the year was 5860.

Rateable Value - £25235.

Product of a penny rate - £99 - 9 - 0

Number of dwelling houses and residences - 1625.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Babies can be seen once a week at the Usk Centre, and fortnightly at the Croesyceiliog Centre. Two Health Visitors are in attendance and Welfare Foods can be obtained at the Usk Centre. In the case of Croesyceiliog Centre Welfare Foods must be obtained at the Food Office. Expectant Mothers can be seen fortnightly at the Usk Centre.

DOMICILIARY MIDWIFERY SERVICE.

Under the re-allocation of the District Midwifery Service, two District Midwives are resident in the Rural District.

DISTRICT NURSING SERVICE.

There are three District Nurses resident in the Rural District.

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HEALTH VISITING.

Two Health Visitors are doing the routine domicilliary visits, School Inspections (cleanliness of body and clothes) and attend the Maternity and Child Welfare Centres.

DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE.

The County Council has provided a Domestic Help Service which is intended for those cases where there is illness, and where there is no able-bodied relative who could give the necessary assistance in the household.

The service has been useful in providing assistance to aged persons and cases of chronic sickness, who would otherwise have had to be admitted to Hospitals, thereby relieving the pressure upon Hospital accomodation.

The service is under the direction of the Area Clerk (Mr. D.A. Lewis). Applicants for the service are assessed to repay the cost of the service in relation to their income.

The hours allocated to each case are recommended after personal investigation by the District Nurse, Midwife or Health Visitor, and are submitted for approval. Cases where the recommendation exceeds 30 hours per week have to be submitted by the Area Committee Clerk to the County Health Committee for investigation except maternity cases.

There are approximately thirty Domestic Helps in No. 10 Area, all are engaged on a part-time temporary basis.

AMBULANCE SERVICE.

The County Council are responsible for the Ambulance Service. The Rural District was served by an Ambulance based at Usk and Ambulances available from Pontypool Depot under the Central Control of the County Ambulance Officer at Caerleon.

VACCINATION AGAINST SMALL POX AND IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHtheria.

Under the National Health Act, 1946, vaccination against Small Pox and Immunisation against Diphtheria has been carried out at the surgeries of the General Practitioners, and at the Maternity and Child Welfare Centres; in both cases free of charge.

The figures for vaccination against Small Pox and Immunisation against Diphtheria for the Rural District are as follows:-

<u>Vaccination against Small Pox 1950.</u>	Total No.....12
<u>Immunisation against Diphtheria.</u>	Total No.....77

Since the compulsory vaccination agaist Small Pox has been abolished the Rural District like the rest of the Country, followed the trend of a decrease in vaccination. From the public health point of view this is regrettable.

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE.

A County Psychiatrist is employed for the purpose of a Mental Health Service. This Service is co-ordinated with the Regional Hospital Board and the Hospital Managment Committees.

No Adult Guidance Clinics are held in the Rural District, but individual cases, patients suffering from early nervous strain, and who are finding difficulty in adjusting themselves either in their home or at their work, are seen by Dr. J. Newcombe the County Psychiatrist.



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Cases considered too far advanced are referred to the Regional Hospital Board Psychiatrist.

WELFARE SERVICES.

The Welfare Officer of No.10 Area caters for the needs of the Rural District as regards Welfare Service, which comes within the provisions of the National Assistance Act, 1946.

MEDICAL APPLIANCES.

The location of the Medical Appliances Depot for the Rural District is Mrs Dummett, Claremont, Croesyceiliog.

LOCATION OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH AND AREA HEALTH OFFICE.

The Medical Officer of Health and the Area Health Office are now operated from Leven House, Abergavenny.

VITAL STATISTICS.

	Totals	Males	Females
Total deaths per Registrar.....	69	37	32
Corrected deaths.....	74	43	31
Death Rate per 1000.....	12.6		
Death Rate for County of Monmouth.....	12.3		
Death Rate for England & Wales.....	11.6		

CAUSES OF DEATHS.

	Males	Females
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System.....	2	
Malignant Neoplasm of Stomach.....	3	2
Malignant Neoplasm of Lung.....	1	
Malignant Neoplasm of all other sites.....	5	1
Diabetes.....		1
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System.....	4	3
Coronary Disease, Angina.....	3	
Hypertension with Heart Disease.....	1	2
Other Heart Diseases.....	12	14
Other circulatory disease.....		2
Bronchitis.....	1	2
Other diseases of respiratory system.....	1	
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea.....	1	
Other defined and ill-defined diseases.....	5	3
Suicide.....	1	
Motor Vehicle accidents.....	1	
All other accidents.....	2	1
	<hr/> 43 <hr/>	<hr/> 31 <hr/>

	Males	Females
Total Births.....	437	383
Corrected after transfer.....	50	35
Legitimate.....	50	34
Illegitimate.....		1
Total births (Corrected after transfer).....		85
Birth Rate per 1000.....		14.5
Birth Rate for County of Monmouth.....		17.4

Deaths of Infants under 1 year..... 3 Males.

Infantile mortality rate..... 35.3
County Rate..... 39.8

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Seventy-three cases of Infectious Disease were notified during

the year and of these it was found necessary to remove three cases to Isolation Hospital.

ANALYSIS OF CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Scarlet Fever.....	11
Pneumonia.....	4
Measles and German Measles.....	6
Whooping Cough.....	49
Acute Poliomyelitis.....	1
Food Poisoning.....	1
Abortus Fever.....	1

Total

73

The necessary steps of Isolation of contacts and disinfection were all taken where necessary.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The position at the 31st December, 1950 was:-

<u>MALES</u>		<u>FEMALES.</u>	
<u>Pulmonary</u>	<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>	<u>Pulmonary</u>	<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>
13	2	9	8

Total Number of cases on Register at 31st December 1950.....32

DISCUSSION OF TABLES.

The rate of Scarlet Fever per 1000 population compares favourably with that for the rest of the Country. There was one case of Acute Poliomyelitis. The child was treated at a Fever Hospital and has made a good recovery.

The number of cases of Tuberculosis on the Register is less than 1950 (32 against 38), nevertheless there is room for further improvement, and once more I draw the attention of the Health Committee to the importance of finding suitable accommodation as soon as cases are discharged from Sanatoria. Tuberculosis is an infectious disease of the household, and we must bear in mind it will spread through the family if proper measures are not taken and the most important of these measures is the sleeping accommodation. A case of tuberculosis must have one room of its own, and it is only by taking these measures that we can hope to stamp out this glaring evil.

In conclusion, I may say the health of the Rural District is satisfactory.

I have the honour to be
Your obedient Servant,

S.M.R. Harvey.

Medical Officer of Health.

11. The first part of the paper is devoted to a discussion of the general principles of the theory of the structure of the atom. It is shown that the structure of the atom is determined by the laws of quantum mechanics, and that the laws of quantum mechanics are in agreement with the experimental facts.

The second part of the paper is devoted to a discussion of the application of the theory of the structure of the atom to the study of the properties of the elements of the periodic table. It is shown that the properties of the elements are determined by the structure of the atom, and that the structure of the atom is determined by the laws of quantum mechanics. The third part of the paper is devoted to a discussion of the application of the theory of the structure of the atom to the study of the properties of the compounds of the elements. It is shown that the properties of the compounds are determined by the structure of the atom, and that the structure of the atom is determined by the laws of quantum mechanics.

PONTYPOOL RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Sessions House,
USK.....Mon.

July 1951.

To: The Chairman and Members of the
Pontypool Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year 1950 as follows:-

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Houses	223
Re-inspections	187
Nuisances	129
Water Supplies	237
Food Inspections	37
Disinfections	114
Disinfestations (Rodent Control).. .. .	931
Factories and Workplaces	114
Miscellaneous	211
	<hr/>
	2083

HOUSING.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year:-

(i) (a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health Housing Acts)	223
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose.. ..	223
(ii)(a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925.. .. .	97
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose.. ..	97
(iii)	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.. .. .	4
(iv)	Number of dwellings (exclusive of those referred to under preceeding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.. .. .	84

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices:-

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers.	60
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3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:-

(A) Proceedings under Sections 9,10 & 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.	5
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115

116

(11)

(B) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:-

(i) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied. 18

(ii) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of Formal Notices:-

(a) By Owners 17

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners 1

(C) Proceedings under Sections 11 & 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:-

(i) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made. 4

(ii) Number of houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders. Nil.

OVERCROWDING.

The housing accomodation of the district is still overtaxed and is largely due to the influx of key workers and the greater number of young married couples. Many families have been relieved by re-housing in new Council houses but the influx of new families into the district still continues. This influx of population is due to the new industries in the surrounding Urban Districts and whilst the population remains in a fluid state it is impossible to give a true figure of the number of houses which became overcrowded during the year.

The Council are doing their utmost to relieve overcrowding by rehousing the families in the new houses which are being completed. Relief to the position in Croesyceiliog will be given in future years by the Cwmbran Development Corporation.

POST WAR HOUSING.

Twenty-six new Council houses were completed during the year. The houses were all of the traditional type and are well suited to the housing of medium sized families. A further twenty houses were under construction at the end of the year.

HOUSING REPAIRS.

There was a great improvement in the availability of materials during the year. Labour still remains a difficult problem and as a result priority is given to most urgent cases.

CARAVANS.

Some twelve caravans remained stationed in the district during the year. Water supply and sanitary accomodation to the caravans was satisfactory. Four of the caravans are inhabited for short week-end periods only.

SCHOOLS.

Schools are visited periodically and sanitation and water supply of most are satisfactory. The County Education Authority have now proceeded with a scheme for the provision of sewerage and sewage disposal works for the Goetre School and it is hoped that this will be completed during the coming year.

The water supply at the Glascoed School and School Kitchen is unsatisfactory but a mains supply will become available to this school when the Council's Water Supply Scheme is completed. This will be towards the end of this year.

WATER SUPPLY.

Twenty-five samples were taken during the year. Five of the samples were not up to the standards required. The five samples were taken from new water mains which came into use during the year and were taken before the water was made available to the public.

The completion of the Goetre and Mamhilad schemes made water available to the Parishes of Goetre, Mamhilad and Kemeys Commander and will ultimately supply some 160 houses and farms.

Some seventy-nine premises were connected to the mains of the Council and seventeen to the mains of the Pontypool Gas & Water Company during the year.

At the end of the year approximately 690 houses were being supplied from the public mains, these being served as follows:-

Llanfrechfa Lower supplied by R.D.C.	..	..	..	..	400
Goetre Fawr	..	..	..	..	75
Gwehelog Fawr	..	..	..	..	18
Llanhennoc Fawr	..	..	..	..	10
Goetre Fawr and Llanbadoc Fawr supplied by the					
Pontypool Gas & Water Company	..	..	..	..	162
					<hr/> 665 <hr/>

A further 22 houses in the Parish of Llanfrechfa Lower are supplied by standpipe.

The Llanover Estate supply some 35 houses in the Parish of Goetre Fawr. This supply being for houses on the estate only.

The Council are promoting further schemes for the supply of mains water in the Parishes of Llangybi Fawr Llanbadoc Fawr and Llanhennoc Fawr (Tredunnoc) and also in the Parish of Gwehelog Fawr. Permission to proceed with the Glascoed scheme was received during the year and work is to be commenced this month. This scheme will be capable of supplying some 22 cottages and seven farms and smallholdings along the route.

Approval was also given to the Gwehelog Scheme during the year but due to the position in regard to the delivery of materials it is anticipated that work upon this scheme (to supply some 36 houses in the Pontypool R.D.C. and 66 houses and farms in the Monmouth R.D.C area) will not be commenced until the middle of 1953.

Preliminary approval has also been received for the Llanbadoc-Llangybi-Tredunnoc scheme but certain technical difficulties have still to be settled before full approval can be given to the scheme.

Investigations have been and are still being made into the possibilities of supplying still more sparsely populated and remote parts of the district but it is feared that the costs of such schemes will be such that the Ministry will not allow.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The Parish of Llanfrechfa Lower is provided with a sewerage system for the ward of Croesyceiliog only but the work of providing sewerage and sewage disposal works in the ward of Ponthir was proceeding at the end of the year. (Sewers complete).

The existing sewerage system at Croesyceiliog deals with the drainage from approximately 310 houses and is now reaching its capacity. The system at Ponthir is to provide for some 90 houses at present and up to 150 houses as and when the Disposal Works of the Eastern Valley Sewerage Board is completed.

The designated area of the Cwmbran New Town embraces the ward of Croesyceiliog and a portion of Llanfrechfa and it is the intention of the Corporation to develop Croesyceiliog into two neighbourhood units with a total population of 10,000.

As and when building works commence upon this part of the area it will be necessary to develop a new sewerage system with disposal possibly into the Eastern Valley Sewerage Board's new trunk sewer.

The sewerage scheme for the Village of Little Mill, which was completed towards the end of 1949, now deals with the drainage from some 48 houses with a further 12 houses to be connected (work proceeding).

REFUSE COLLECTION.

Refuse is now being collected along practically all roads in the district.

Collections are made weekly from some 480 houses in the Parish of Llanfrechfa Lower; fortnightly from some 270 houses in the Parishes of Goetre and Llanbadoc; monthly from some 350 houses along the main routes throughout the remaining scattered parishes of the Council's area.

Refuse tips are situate at Croesyceiliog for the western part of the district and at Usk and Nantyderry in the eastern portion of the area. The tips are kept free of infestation and are kept levelled and where and when possible overdressed with a layer of soil.

NUISANCES.

Such nuisances as were found and reported were dealt with by both formal and informal action.

MILK DISTRIBUTORS AND DAIRIES.

Particulars of Dairies and Milk Distributors on the Registers at 31st December 1952:-

Dairies..	..	..	..	1
Milk Distributors..	..	..	..	11.

The dairy and vehicles of the distributors were inspected frequently. Some Fifty-six samples of milk were taken during the year from the milk purveyors and of these seven were below the standards required for keeping qualities.

One of the unsatisfactory samples was due to the presence of Brucella Abortus and as a result both the Medical Officer and myself made all the necessary investigations and took precautions for the pasteurisation of the milk concerned. Individual samples taken from the herd concerned proved one of the cows in the herd to be infected and the farmer was instructed and immediately disposed of the cow by slaughter.

Eight of the distributors are licenced to sell both sterilised and pasteurised milk and two to sell T.T. milk.

INFESTATION ORDER.

The necessary treatments of the sewers were carried out and regular treatments of the Councils refuse tips performed.

Inspections of farms and other premises were made and such infestations as occurred were generally of a minor character and were promptly dealt with.

FOODSHOPS ETC.

The very small number of foodshops in the Rural District were

visited frequently and all were found to be well regulated.

FACTORIES ACTS.

1. Inspections for the purpose of the provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Sanitary Inspector).

Premises. (1)	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4,6, are enforced by L.A.	5	31	1	nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) above in which Section 7 is enforced by L.A.	11	38	nil	nil
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by L.A.	11	45	nil	nil
Total	27	114	1	nil

2. Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars.	Number of defects.			
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M.I.	Prosecutions
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts:				
Want of cleanliness.....	1	1	-	-
Want of ventilation.....	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding.....	-	-	-	-
Want of drainage of floors.....	-	-	-	-
Other nuisances.....	-	-	-	-
(Insufficient.....	-	-	-	-
(unsuitable or				
Sanitary (defective.....	2	2	-	-
Accommod- (not separate for				
-ation (sexes.....	1	1	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork).....	-	-	-	-
Total	4	4	-	-

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

Cyril Morgan.

Sanitary Inspector.

